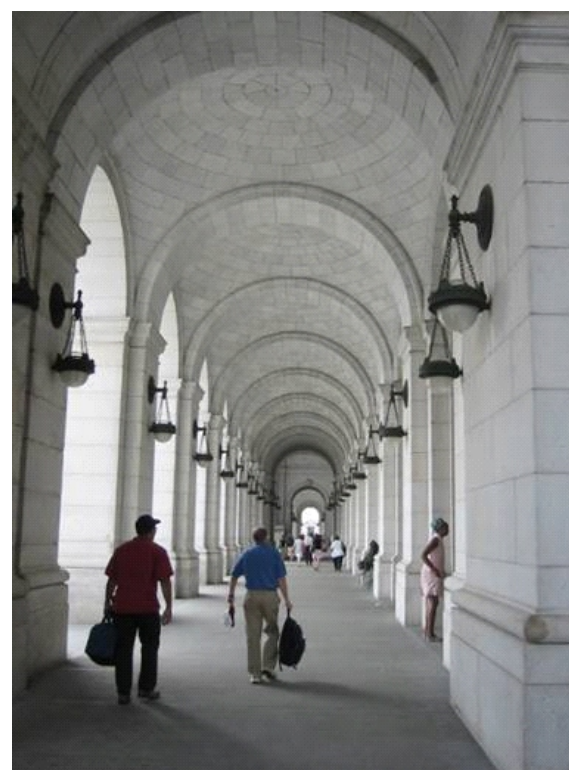




View From Southwest



Front Arcade



West Portico and Bookstore



West Portico - Metro Entrance

## Union Station, Washington DC

Union Station opened in 1907 as a heroic example of American Beaux Art tradition, an example of the “American Renaissance” after 1893 Columbian Exposition. Grand iconic vaulted ceilings - recalling Roman Triumphal Arches and Baths make this building an “imperial transportation palace” as conceived by the architect, Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago. This structure was the first to be built in the transformation of Washington from a swampy backwater into a monumental capitol.

The design of the building focuses on stone, glass and metal with accents created by metal frames, grills and light fixtures (introduced at the turn of the century). The basic building form is created with stone. Large areas of glass allow most of the public spaces to have natural light, which changes as the sun moves across the sky.

Barrel vaults were used in the formal spaces and a partial vault was used in the train room where a larger span was required for movement of pedestrians and luggage. A full barrel vault would have been much too high for the correct proportions and overshadowed the more formal spaces at the station entrance. Arcades were used on the exterior of the building to provide shade and shelter for patrons waiting for cars or public transportation. Each end of the building had a “carriage court” where taxis and private vehicles could drop-off and pick-up passengers under the cover of the portico.

Unfortunately in the 70's, the train room (which was the largest hall in the world when built) was cut off on both ends to allow the construction of Metro (on the west side) and to create space for ramps to the parking garage. This eroded the west “carriage court” and even today though this area contains an entrance to Metro the “plaza” only serves as a driveway to the garage.

## Union Station

Proposed Bicycle Transit Center  
Union Station, Washington DC





East Clerestory in Waiting Room



Glazed Vault in Ticket Hall



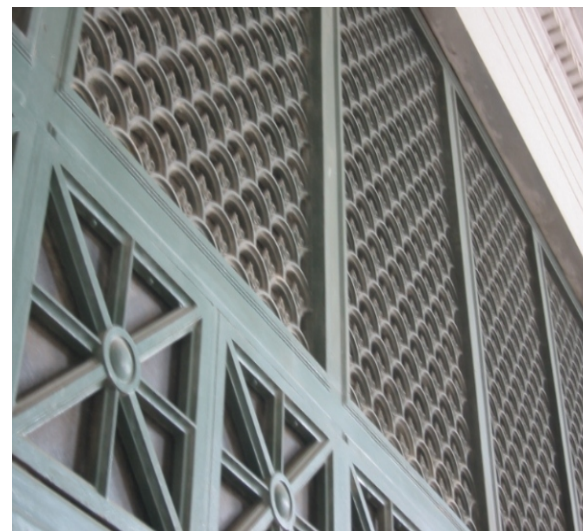
Lamp at West Portico



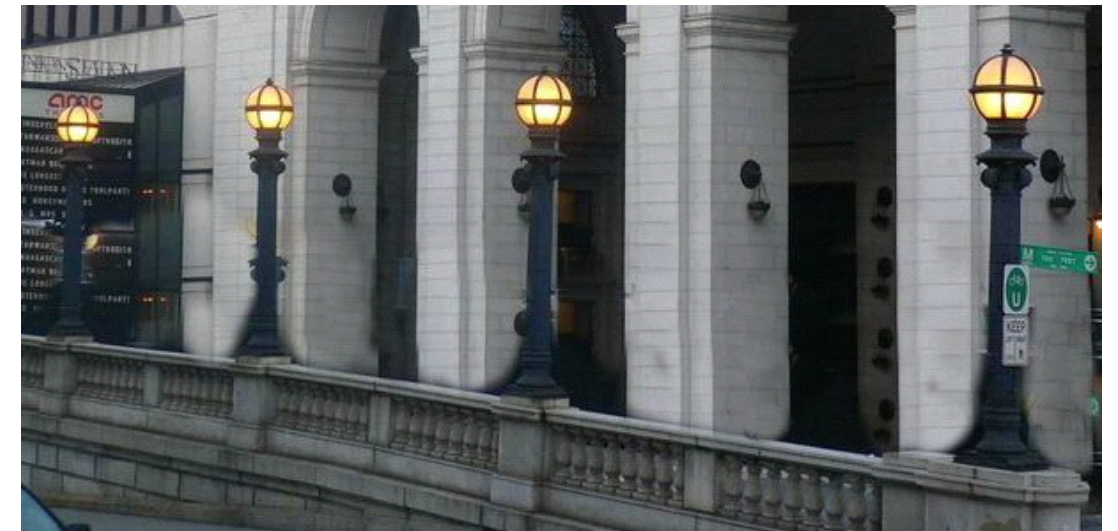
Bronze lamp



Vault in Train Room



Screen Detail



Balustrade at West Portico

## Union Station

Proposed Bicycle Transit Center  
Union Station, Washington DC